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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: GABRIELE, Alfred M. et al.  
Serial No: 09/833,036  
Filed: April 11, 2001  
For: METHOD FOR LEVELING AND COATING A SUBSTRATE AND AN  
ARTICLE FORMED THEREBY  
Examiner: Versteeg, Steven H.  
Art Unit: 1753

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 13th day of September, 2004.

  
Patricia Blackwell

Mail Stop Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed August 4, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

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**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claim 15, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of coating a substrate, comprising:
  - providing a substrate having a surface;
  - forming a polymeric layer on the surface of the substrate by electrophoretically applying a layer of a polymeric precursor to at least a portion of the surface;
  - polymerizing the polymeric precursor to form a polymerized layer; and
  - applying a metal coating to at least a portion of the polymerized layer;

wherein the metal coating is applied under sub-atmospheric conditions, and wherein the step of forming the polymerized layer includes elevating the temperature of the polymeric precursor to a temperature of at least about 320°F.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)